

\$700,000 grant from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act and \$1 million secured by Rep. Israel will help expand YouthBuild programs on Long Island ***\$700,000 grant from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act and \$1 million secured by Rep. Israel will help expand YouthBuild programs on Long Island***

Deer Park, NY – On Monday, Rep. Steve Israel (D – Long Island) and United Way of Long Island announced a \$699,600 grant for YouthBuild Long Island from the Department of Labor’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act initiative. This funding is in addition to \$1 million in federal funds secured for YouthBuild by Rep. Israel in the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, for a total of \$1.7 million in new federal funds for YouthBuild Long Island.

“I’m thrilled to announce that new federal funding will be coming to one of the most worthy programs on Long Island. YouthBuild is leading the way in training a new generation for a future in green jobs. The program provides job training and experience to unemployed young adults and in the process builds energy-efficient affordable housing. With nearly \$1.7 million in Recovery Act and additional federal funds, United Way of Long Island will be able to grow its programs on Long Island, continue making our communities more sustainable and train Long Islanders for clean energy careers,” said Rep. Steve Israel.

“On behalf of the Long Island YouthBuild partnership, United Way is thrilled to be the recipient of the Department of Labor and federal funds,” said Theresa Regnante, President and CEO, United Way of Long Island. “For the past three years, our collaborative partnership has worked to put in place a pilot program to be recognized by the Department of Labor. These funds will give us the platform and resources to expand our current model to two additional YouthBuild sites on Long Island.”

YouthBuild Long Island is a youth and community development initiative for unemployed young adults ages 18 to 24 that aims to create the future ‘green-collar’ workforce to meet the high demand for more environmentally-responsible housing on Long Island. Through YouthBuild Long Island, young adults obtain their GEDs, receive onsite construction training (an accredited pre-apprenticeship program), counseling, case management services, graduate resources and the opportunity to develop education, employment and valuable leadership skills needed to succeed in today’s society and have a positive impact in the Long Island community. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be offered a career opportunity in the construction/related field or to continue their education.

This federal funding will also enable United Way to complete the first YouthBuild Long Island home located in Brentwood. Once completed, the home – donated by the Town of Islip – will be the first “Net Energy Zero” energy efficient home on Long Island, and will be sold through the Town of Islip’s Affordable Housing Program to a qualifying low to moderate-income family.

The Department of Labor recently announced 2009 YouthBuild grants from the Omnibus Appropriations Bill and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. New York State will receive more than \$8 million for YouthBuild programs.

As the Co-Chairman of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition in the House, Rep. Israel fought to include more than \$90 billion for energy initiatives in the American Recovery and Reinvestment act, including new investments in green jobs and green job training. Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee.